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Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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Addendum

VI. Technical assistance

1. At its 7th meeting, on 18 October 2018, the Conference considered agenda item 5, entitled "Technical assistance". For its consideration of the item, the Conference had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the reports on the meetings of the Working Group on International Cooperation and the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance held in Vienna from 9 to 13 October 2017 and from 28 to 31 May 2018 (CTOC/COP/2018/9);

(b) Report of the Secretariat on the provision of technical assistance to States in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (CTOC/COP/2018/11).

2. A representative of the Secretariat made an introductory statement. Statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, China, the United States and Colombia.

Deliberations

3. Under agenda item 4, the Chair of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance at its eleventh meeting introduced the recommendations that had been adopted by the Working Group.

4. All speakers acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the technical assistance work of UNODC through its country, regional and global programmes. Speakers also encouraged States to deliver bilateral and regional technical assistance. One speaker recognized the need to improve coordination mechanisms for technical assistance delivery.

5. Speakers noted that in order to meet the demand, technical assistance had to be evidence-based and based on identified needs. One speaker requested assistance for the involvement of civil society in combating organized crime in that State. Another speaker mentioned the need to respect sovereignty and self-determination in the delivery of technical assistance.

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6. One speaker highlighted the need to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16 ("Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels"). The speaker reiterated that to achieve Goal 16, it was important to create a culture of lawfulness, as outlined in the Doha Declaration, in order to establish a stable environment where citizens could exercise their rights, and with transparent institutions that respected those rights.

7. Several speakers emphasized that technical assistance was an integral component of, and sometimes a prerequisite for, the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. One speaker reiterated the need for legislative assistance, recognizing that legislative gaps still persisted. Another speaker highlighted the importance of specialized training as one of the key components of capacity-building in countering all forms of organized crime.

8. Speakers noted the importance of regional and interregional cooperation in countering organized crime and welcomed the efforts of UNODC to promote that cooperation. Speakers also welcomed with appreciation the technical assistance tools developed by UNODC, notably the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool. The need for technical assistance in using those tools was reiterated. One speaker called upon States to update their information in the directory of competent national authorities, available under the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC).

9. Finally, one speaker concluded that technical assistance was not about the number of events held but, rather, about the impact it had. The speaker recalled the efforts of men and women who combated organized crime, sometimes sacrificing their own lives, and how States should learn from one another and put those lessons in practice.

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